

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Perla Villezcas, I am a mother and I've lived in Hartford, CT, since 2003. I'm a mother to 3 sons. I am a member of *Hartford Deportation Defense*.

**I support HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

I have had a deviated trachea for four years now, and they have not been able to give me an endoscopy because I don't have medical insurance. It's very expensive, \$7,000 to just begin the process. If they give me medication, treatments, or surgery, they would charge me more. What worries me the most is if it were to get worse, or if I cannot swallow food one day and I can't breathe. This is why I avoid hard foods, so that this doesn't happen to me. I have already lost 20 pounds because of this. If I had HUSKY I wouldn't have waited all of this time, it would change my situation a lot.

A year ago they told me that I have gallbladder stones, although they haven't given me an x-ray nor an endoscopy because I don't have health insurance.

It's very difficult to not have health insurance, I am very afraid that my situation will get worse. I have a lot of stress due to my two diseases. **Please support HB 6616** and vote to continue expanding HUSKY health insurance to our immigrant communities. Expanding it up to 26 years is a huge step but we should continue until all ages have access.

Thank you for your time,  
*Perla Villezcas*